

Master of Social Work

Recommended Deadline for
University Application is
January 10.
Final Submission Deadline
for University and MSW
Applications is February 28.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the MSW program is based on meeting the general University requirements, plus an evaluation of the applicant's potential for advanced practice in the profession of social work. The program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Two applications are required – one to the University and one to the Social Work Program.

MISSION STATEMENT The Master of Social Work Program at California State University, Stanislaus prepares social workers to advance social justice. This education is committed to social change based on an analysis of social, political and economic structures and their impact. This teaching and learning environment enables faculty, students and graduates to collaborate with others to transform the conditions which contribute to privilege and oppression. Graduates are prepared to use an advanced integrative practice approach to work with individuals, families and communities to promote personal and collective liberation.

University Requirements

The minimum requirements for admission to the University are:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- For post baccalaureate status, a grade point average of 2.5 in the last 60 units is required.
- Good standing at the last college or university attended.
- Complete the on-line University application for admission and pay application fee.
- Provide two official copies of transcripts for all previous college work.

Complete the on-line University application at www.csumentor.edu. Send official transcripts to the **Graduate School** at California State University, Stanislaus, One University Circle, Turlock CA 95382. **It is strongly recommended that applications be submitted by January 10 as the University must complete the processing of your University application before the MSW program will review your application to the program.** If you have questions about the University application, call the Graduate School at (209) 667-3129.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The CSU Stanislaus MSW Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, physical disability, and sexual orientation.

For further program information, please contact:

The Department of Social Work
CSU Stanislaus
One University Circle
Turlock, CA 95382
209/667-3091
Website: csustan.edu/Social_Work/index.htm

Social Work Program Requirements

The following are required to complete an admissions application to the Social Work Program:

- Complete University requirements (on-line application, application fee, transcripts)
- GPA of 2.5 required; 3.0 in the last 60 units preferred
- Liberal arts background demonstrated by having met the CSU general education requirements or a comparable course of study as an undergraduate.
- Academic background including instruction in the behavioral and biological sciences related to the human condition.
- At least three academic and/or professional references (including the completed form provided in the application packet and a reference letter) from individuals who can address your qualifications for graduate study in social work, your academic readiness and work performance and proficiency.
- Autobiographical statement (see guidelines on reverse).
- Social Work Program application.
- Criminal History Statement.
- Voluntary and/or paid experience in human services.
- Provide one copy of all transcripts.
- Resume or vitae.
- It is recommended that applicants will have completed a course in statistics and be computer literate.

Send completed MSW application materials to the **Department of Social Work** at California State University, Stanislaus, One University Circle, Turlock CA 95382. All of these must be postmarked or in the department office by February 28. Applications will be reviewed when all documents are received.

It must be emphasized that meeting the above academic requirements alone does not guarantee admission to the MSW program. Applicants are accepted or denied on the basis of their academic preparation, breadth of background and experience, and evidence of promise in the field of social work. In addition to being academically qualified, applicants should be emotionally mature, interested in working with people from diverse backgrounds, and capable of assuming the heavy responsibilities which are inherent in professional social work practice.

Autobiographical Statement

The following outline is presented to assist you in submitting the autobiographical statement. This statement should reflect your experience in light of the MSW Program mission statement, should be typewritten (1200-1500 words) and should enable the Admissions Committee to know something of you as a person, your writing ability, your understanding of social work, and your own life experiences.

Readiness for Social Work Education

1. Describe how your education and professional goals fit with the MSW Program's Mission Statement (see previous page)
2. Explain your development of interest in becoming a social worker.
3. If this is a change of occupational goals, indicate reasons for the change.
4. Describe your background and the experiences you have had that may be of value in preparing you for entry into professional social work.
5. Describe any paid and/or volunteer social work experiences.
6. State what you expect to obtain from a professional education.
7. Describe your experience and ideas regarding the profession of social work and working with disadvantaged populations.
8. Explain your ideas related to social justice.
9. Describe your experience working with people of diverse backgrounds.
10. Describe your professional goals.
11. Discuss how your life experiences and obstacles have strengthened your ability to pursue scholarly and professional work.

Degree Requirements

The course of study is designed to educate and prepare social work practitioners to work in a variety of roles within public and private social service systems. Students will be prepared to use traditional and nontraditional intervention methods to promote well being, personal growth, and social justice with diverse multicultural populations.

The curriculum emphasizes social work practice in the public social services, health, mental health, corrections and schools. Graduates are prepared to practice, with sensitivity and competence, with economically and culturally diverse populations. Students graduate with advanced analytic and practice skills sufficient for independent level of practice.

The MSW degree and two years of supervised clinical practice qualify a social worker to take the state Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) examination.

The Master of Social Work degree is a 60-unit program requiring all students to complete a sequence of foundation courses in social work followed by advanced social work courses in the practice concentration. The program requires all students to complete foundation courses in social work practice, policy and services, research, human behavior and the social environment, and the field practicum. The advanced curriculum centers on integrative practice. Electives in social work practice in mental health, child welfare, corrections, and aging are available.

No academic credit is given for previous life experience or work experience.

Field Practicum Requirements

Field instruction is arranged on a concurrent model. Students are required to complete approximately 1000 hours of internship, which includes a regularly scheduled seminar. Students are placed in a variety of social service agencies approved by the Social Work Program. Students can expect to be in one agency placement for the first year and move to another practicum setting the following year. All students are under the supervision of an MSW field instructor.

MSW Program - Cohort Admission Schedule

Students are admitted to a 2 or 3-year program in the Fall semester only. Applicants may apply for either the two or three year program.

Three Year Program

The three year program allows students to complete the degree work in three years rather than two. In the first semester, students take thirteen units. Thereafter, students take an average of 9-10 units per semester. Most classes for the three-year program are scheduled late afternoon or early evening. The field practicum requirements are similar to those for the full-time program.

For additional information, please visit our website at http://web.csustan.edu/Social_Work/index.htm

